

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Applicants affirm election by telephone on July 3, 2003 to prosecute the invention of Group I Claims 1 - 10 and 14 - 20. Applicants affirm withdrawal, without prejudice, of Group II Claims 11 - 13 as drawn to a non-elected invention. The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A composite comprising:
a coil of laminate material defining a periphery for a load-bearing portion of said composite, said laminate material comprising a plurality of continuous reinforcement fibers disposed within a polymer matrix wherein each continuous reinforcement fiber forms at least one complete loop circumscribing said periphery so that a plurality of generally parallel loops respective to said plurality of continuous reinforcement fibers is disposed within said composite.

2. (original) A composite structure according to claim 1 where said laminate defines a first surface, said first surface having chopped fibers disposed thereon.

3. (original) The composite structure according to Claim 2 wherein about 10-30% of the fibers are chopped fibers.

4. (original) The composite structure according to Claim 3 wherein about 20% of the fiber is chopped fiber.

5. (original) The composite structure according to Claim 1 further comprising a woven fiber mat.

6. (original) The composite according to Claim 1 wherein said matrix is a vinyl ester.

7. (original) The composite according to Claim 1 further comprising a spanner.

8. (original) The composite according to Claim 7 wherein said spanner comprises chopped fibers.

9. (original) The composite according to Claim 1 where said fibers are selected from the group of e-glass, Kevlar® and carbon fibers.

10. (original) The composite according to Claim 1 where said continuous fiber is a yarn.

11. (withdrawn) A method for providing a composite material comprising the steps of :

providing a laminate pre-preg film having a plurality of parallel continuous fibers disposed in an uncured polymer matrix;

forming a coil of said laminate; and

applying pressure and elevated temperature to said coil to cure the polymer.

12. (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 11 further comprising the step of providing a spanner.

13. (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 12 further comprising the step of disbursing chopped fibers over said pre-preg laminate, prior to forming a coil of said laminate.

14. (currently amended) A composite structure comprising a coil of laminate material defining a periphery for a load-bearing portion of said composite structure, said laminate material comprising a plurality of continuous reinforcement fibers disposed within a polymer matrix and having a first surface having chopped fibers disposed thereon wherein each continuous reinforcement fiber forms at least one complete loop circumscribing said periphery so that a plurality of generally parallel loops respective to said plurality of continuous reinforcement fibers is disposed within said composite structure, said matrix comprising a vinyl ester.

15. (original) The composite structure according to Claim 14 wherein about 10%-30% by weight of the fibers are chopped fibers.

16. (original) The composite structure according to Claim 15 wherein about 20% by weight of the fibers are chopped fibers.

17. (original) The composite structure according to Claim 16 further comprising a spanner.

18. (original) The composite structure according to Claim 17 wherein said spanner comprises chopped fiber.

19. (original) The composite structure according to Claim 18 wherein said continuous fiber is a yarn comprising e-glass.

20. (original) The composite structure according to Claim 18 wherein said chopped fiber is selected from the group of e-glass, Kevlar® and carbon fiber.